



UANews

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Arizona Campus Climate Survey Offers Insights

TUCSON, Ariz. — University of Arizona students experience sexual assault and misconduct at the same rate as the average of 26 other national research universities, according to the release of the first-ever Association of American Universities Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct.

The AAU survey, which included the UA, had more than 150,000 student responses, making it one of the largest surveys on sexual assault and sexual misconduct ever, in terms of the number of schools and number of students. The survey was conducted last April and May and included 2,852 UA students.

"The survey is an important tool in our continuing efforts to prevent sexual assault at the University of Arizona and to raise awareness about what can be done to help create a safe campus community," said UA President Ann Weaver Hart. "We will use the results to learn more about what our students experience and to ensure they are aware of both the resources available and the staff working to prevent and address sexual assault and misconduct on our campus."

Sexual assault and misconduct is a significant issue for the UA, affecting some student populations more than others. The survey indicated 20 percent of all women and 23 percent of students who identify as other than heterosexual are impacted the most. It also showed that many of the students who responded are unsure of how to help if they see someone threatened or in a risky situation.

A large percentage of students reported that they were very aware of UA services they can turn to for help, including Campus Health (86 percent), the UA Police Department (74 percent) and the Dean of Students Office (48 percent).

The student respondents also expressed a high degree of trust in the ability of campus officials to take sexual assault and misconduct reports seriously, to conduct fair investigations, to discipline offenders, and to act to reduce sexual assault on campus.

"We've been working on prevention education for students of all sexual orientations, and we'll add more programming for students with disabilities. We also have programs to enhance students' abilities to intervene on behalf of other students who may be at risk of sexual assault," said UA Senior Vice President Melissa Vito, who oversees many of the units charged with prevention education, investigating incidents and assisting sexual assault survivors. "The study says students have confidence in our ability to act on reports of sexual assault, but they're not knowledgeable about what happens. We'll be addressing that as well."

UA staff will present the findings of the survey to student groups, faculty and staff over the next several weeks.

Vito said ongoing efforts include hiring two additional Title IX investigators dedicated to the Dean of Students Office and a full-time, licensed professional counselor specializing in sexual assault and relationship violence in Campus Health. The UA also sponsors student-run events, programs and workshops around sexual assault

for academic credit (nearly 5,000 students were reached in 2014-2015) and has created a Prevention Programming Committee to ensure that all student populations are reached.

The UA also is reorganizing the Oasis Program Against Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence in an effort to help the nationally recognized program reach even more students.

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The University of Arizona, the state's super land-grant university with two medical schools, produces graduates who are real-world ready, through its 100% engagement initiative. Recognized as a global leader for the employability of its graduates, UA is also a leader in research, bringing more than \$580 million in research investment each year, ranking 19 among all public universities. UA is advancing the frontiers of interdisciplinary scholarship and entrepreneurial partnerships, and is a member of the Association of American of Universities, the 62 leading public and private research universities. It benefits the state with an estimated economic impact of \$8.3 billion annually.